



MISSION

To empower individuals with disabilities in the communities where they live to achieve their personal and professional goals.

♦ BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS BUILDING *for the* FUTURE ♦

In the first days of his new administration, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. set the goal of securing the civil rights of all Marylanders with disabilities. During the 2004 legislative session, he proposed legislation to elevate the existing Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities (OID) to cabinet-level status, establishing the **Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)**.

After passage in the Maryland General Assembly, legislation went into effect July 1, 2004 creating the new department. MDOD will oversee the reorganization of government services for people with disabilities in Maryland through collaboration with all state agencies. MDOD has the authority to review and redefine regulatory provisions governing services to people with disabilities, refocus budget priorities and implement performance outcomes measured by consumer satisfaction.

MDOD will work as a catalyst to empower citizens with disabilities to

make informed choices about their lives. By working with state agencies, service providers, advocacy groups and consumers, the Maryland Department of Disabilities hopes to create a level of collaboration and network of services that will allow all individuals with disabilities to achieve their personal and professional goals.

The strength of Maryland resides in the quality of life of all of its citizens. Through its unique partnerships and unprecedented influence over budget and policy decisions, the Maryland Department of Disabilities will strive to improve the options available to all Marylanders with disabilities.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

The Constituent Services Program

♦ Provides information and referrals, resource listings and access assistance to individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers on issues including: employment, housing, transportation, education and benefits. Constituent Service coordinators believe individuals with disabilities are best served when they can make informed choices throughout every level of the service delivery process. Each constituent call is entered into a data base, creating an ever-evolving record detailing the issues people with disabilities face in Maryland. For information call **410-767-3660** voice/tty or **1-800-637-4113** voice/tty toll-free or visit www.mdod.maryland.gov.

Attendant Care Program

♦ Offers financial reimbursement to eligible individuals with chronic or severe physical disabilities who require attendant services. The program allows consumers to supplement the cost of attendant care through a stipend if they are: employed, seeking employment, institutionalized in a nursing facility but medically able to live in the community with appropriate support, or on a waiting list for a nursing home. The program is consumer-directed and requires the recipient of the stipend to recruit, train, supervise and pay the attendant. Services provided by the attendant may include assistance with personal care, household chores and transportation. For information call **410-767-3660** voice/tty or **1-800-637-4113** voice/tty toll-free or visit www.mdod.maryland.gov.

The Access Maryland Program

♦ Brings state-owned facilities into compliance with state and federal mandates requiring access for people with disabilities. Access Maryland funds are capital funds and thus are limited to "bricks and mortar" projects. MDOD prioritizes requests, recommends funding and provides oversight through design and construction. For information call **410-767-3660** v/tty or **1-800-637-4113** v/tty.

Technology Assistance Program

♦ (MD TAP) provides statewide technical assistance for individuals with disabilities, making disability-related technology more readily available. Services include the Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program, providing low-interest loans for equipment to help individuals live, work and learn more independently. MD TAP also offers training workshops and seminars on the use of assistive technology, an equipment loan and demonstration program to help individuals find equipment that works best for them, and comprehensive directories regarding vendors and service providers for home modification, durable medical equipment and assistive technology. For information call **410-554-9230** voice, **1-800-832-4827** voice toll-free or **1-866-881-7488** tty toll-free or visit www.mdmap.org.



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This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

